



HUMANE
SOCIETY
of Portage County

PAWS to READ

From the Director's Desk...

Summer 2011

Greetings!

Anything can happen at an animal shelter; no two days are ever the same. That was my first thought when I picked up the phone and was greeted with the following: "Hello – I'm calling from Animal Planet in New York, and we're hoping to use one of your shelter dogs in an upcoming television series."



For real? I admit, I was a bit star struck. This was really cool!

Risa, an Animal Planet staffer, went on to say that they had been searching online for a dog with a particular look, and one of ours fit the bill. His name was Alex, a one-year-old, black and white pit bull terrier mix. As it turns out, Alex was the spitting image of Dude, a dog that had saved his owner's life during a bear attack in Sparta, Wisconsin in April 2007. Animal Planet was recreating this selfless feat as part of a 12 episode series called "Saved", which will air in the fall. Risa reported that they were filming in Sparta in March, and

asked, "Would we be willing to bring Alex down to star in the show?"

Other shelter staff were star struck as well. When I told the story of the phone call, everyone wanted to be the person to take Alex to Sparta and watch the film crew in action. We were all so pleased

that Alex was chosen! He had been with us twice over a four month period; he was adopted once and, after only one week, brought back to us because his new family discovered their allergies. Even though we knew the show wasn't airing until fall and that no one would see him on the screen, fall in love and adopt him, in some small way we felt he was getting recognition as the great dog that he was.

Our veterinary assistant, Lissa Danforth, was chosen to escort our star to his debut and, by her account, he did us proud! He played his role as directed and the shoot went off without a hitch. Shelter dog turned actor in a harrowing scene about the heroism of man's best friend!

As we know, Alex could have cared less that he was a star. His little trip to Sparta was an interesting getaway but, at the end of the day, he was back at his temporary shelter home.

The filming took place on March 31; on May 9, the truly inspiring story began. Alex was adopted to a wonderful family who report he is the joy of their household.

Alex is still a star!

Always,

Jen



Visit us at 3200 Iber Lane, Plover (off Hwy. B across from Jay-Mar)



Meet Our Staff – Katie Collins



Greetings, HSPC supporters and fans!

I thought I should take a moment to introduce myself. As the shelter office manager, I am a new addition to the staff and I could not be happier! I have been here for just over a month as I write this article.

Working with the amazing staff and volunteer base at the shelter and seeing how much they truly do care about the animals makes me feel honored to be a part of the team.

I have known from a very young age that I was destined to work in the animal care field in some way, shape, or form. I have always had a soft spot in my heart for the underdog, and I consider all of the animals here to be just that. It's not because they are anything less than amazing, it is just that they each have their own individual circumstance or reason that brought them to the shelter. Some had owners who simply did not have the means to care for them any longer. Others were not fortunate enough to have a home to begin with, fending

for themselves out in the world until a kind soul brought them to us for care. There are more reasons than I could possibly count for why each cat, dog, guinea pig, rabbit, etc. finds us. I am glad to be part of the team that offers them shelter, full bellies, medical care, and lots and lots of love, while we work to find them the forever home that they deserve.

As far as my background, I have Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology, Social Science, and Natural Science, with minors in Captive Wildlife Management and Psychology. I also have hands-on experience with many species of animals through veterinary technician courses and an internship in wildlife rehabilitation. I have worked in customer service settings for years and have held an office management position as well. Thankfully, the hiring committee at the shelter saw my cocktail of different experiences as a great fit for the position here. It made a dream of mine come true.

Please feel free to say "hi" if you stop by the shelter and see me at the front desk. I'll be very happy to meet you!

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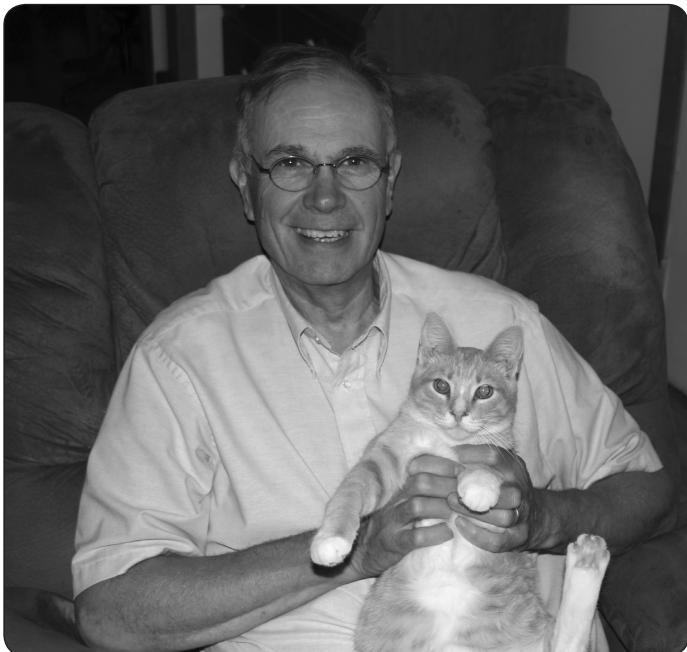
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Meet Our Veterinarians

Dr. Paul Cooper, DVM



Dr. Paul Cooper with Butterscotch, the wonder cat!

I wanted to be a veterinarian since I was four years old when my dad and I took our cocker spaniel, Blackie, to our vet, Dr. Boxwell, to get his vaccinations and hair cut. I remember how nice Blackie looked and felt after a trip to the veterinarian; he was like a new dog.

I obtained degrees in Fish and Wildlife Biology and Pharmacy, and also served in active duty in the U.S. Army before becoming a veterinarian. After graduating from Iowa State University – College of Veterinary Medicine, I came to Plover to work at Oakview Pet Hospital. After several years, the practice was sold to its

present owners and I began a house-call practice. I also became a Veterinary Officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Veterinary Corp, where I served for six years.

I am a member of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, and have worked with the Humane Society of Portage County for the last 15 years. The spay/neuter surgery facilities were very primitive at the old shelter at Bukolt Park. I used all of my own equipment, washed and sterilized all the surgery supplies, supplied the shelter with rabies vaccine and administered all the vaccinations. The Humane Society now has a new building with a nice surgery suite and an excellent veterinary assistant, Lissa Danforth.

My wife, Audrey, and I have two children - Tracy and Travis - and three grandchildren - Shelby, Tanner and Sadie. They all love animals. We adopted two great dogs from the Humane Society – Mac, a gordon setter, and Queenie, a German shepherd. Sadly, they both died of old age last year. We recently adopted a cat from the Humane Society – Butterscotch. He is a wonderful cat that can fetch and retrieve a ball just like a dog. We call him our “dog cat”. We have five cats, two llamas, a donkey, some chickens and a bird.

In addition to working at the Humane Society, I also fill in at St. Michael’s Hospital Pharmacy and UWSP Student Health Pharmacy. I repair violins, violas and cellos, substitute teach in the Stevens Point School District, and teach Sunday school. Audrey and I have a hobby farm with a big garden, orchard and vineyard so I keep busy at home as well.

I feel blessed that I am able to help the Humane Society animals become more adoptable, help prevent pet over-population, and especially to be able to work with the talented and dedicated staff and volunteers at the Humane Society of Portage County.

CANDiD CANiNES

Rhianna has the most expressive face and ears. When we looked at our photos of her, it was hard to pick just three. You would have thought she was auditioning for a part in a play. So we ended up choosing picture one, her happy face, picture two, her pensive face, and picture three, her look of disbelief. She wants you to know she will probably look pensive when you ask to meet her, look disbelieving when you say you want to adopt her, and look happy from the moment you take her home for as long as she lives!





FEATURED FELINES

Corey – Admitted June 18, 2010

Corey is like that nice guy in high school that the girls were never interested in because he wasn't "exciting" or "dangerous". Only after the girls grew up did they appreciate what a catch that kind, thoughtful boy would have been. Well, nobody has "caught" Corey yet, but one of these days someone with a discerning eye is going to snap him up. Being the gentleman he is, he is waiting patiently!



Veronica – Admitted July 28, 2010

Veronica is our "hide and go seek" girl. She loves to bury herself under a blanket, which is a shame because she is so pretty. Frequently when kitties burrow, it's because they are nervous. But in Veronica's case, there doesn't seem to be any insecurity involved - she is happy and friendly. Maybe she just prefers taking her cat naps in the dark?!



Grimm – Admitted July 30, 2010

Grimm is quite the character. We don't know if he was named after the fairy tale collection, but he does seem to live in a fantasy world. He stays in one of our group rooms where he loves to hang out on the top level of a ceiling-high tower and survey his kingdom. Maybe he's looking for Rapunzel up there. When someone enters his room, he stays in a safe place until he has run his security check. Maybe he's heard about the Big Bad Wolf who may come to your door. But he can't resist a spoonful of canned treat. He must NOT have heard the story where Hansel and Gretl are tempted by food and almost get eaten themselves. Let's keep that one a secret from him!



Ted & Archie – Admitted August 19 and 21, 2010

Ted and Archie came to the shelter as kittens in the fall of 2010. They didn't arrive together, but they were teamed up because both got a case of the sniffles. A foster mom took them home, and it is a testament to their lovability that she kept them until a new job "on the road" required her to move from the area. They have adjusted well to life back at the shelter, getting along with everyone, cat and human alike. Ted has been moved to a group room, which is more fun than a cage, and we're hoping that Archie gets the same chance soon. But nothing compares to the joy they both will feel when one of you discovers them and whiskers them off to their forever home!



Olivia – Admitted September 13, 2010

Olivia says just call her "Olivia Audubon" because she loves to watch birds. During run-free time you can usually find Olivia glued to one of our large windows that look out toward shrubs and bird-feeders. She never seems to tire of this hobby even though the birds are always tantalizingly out of reach. She'd love to live with a family who will give her a chance to add to her "life list"!



February 28 - June 30, 2011

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Dennis & Judy Overacker
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HAPPY TAILS



If you have recently adopted a pet, please send your happy story for "Happy Tails" and a picture of your pet and we will try to place it in our newsletter. For quality pictures, please send a digital photo to the shelter - jennifer.blum@hspcwi.org - or a high quality hard copy with your letter.

Please remember ... your best friend is only a shelter away!



I just wanted to send you an update and a picture of Hunter, the stray yellow lab that no one came looking for. He has really come to fit into our family well.

My mom has Alzheimers and I recently took Hunter with me to visit. I don't think I've seen her that happy in quite some time. Her eyes lit up and she continually told me how much she liked him and that I should leave him with her. It made me feel so good that he could bring a little bit of happiness into her life.

I've sent along a recent picture I took of Hunter and his brother, Winnie, while I was making them some special doggy treats. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to adopt him.

Sincerely,

Bonnie



Hi!

A quick Marley update ...

After taking it easy last weekend, Marley was back to his normal, goofy self. We started taking the bicycle for his walks again on Monday and after 20 minutes of starting and stopping he finally caught on and stayed beside the bike instead of trying to pull it. This works very well for him and is a bonus for my daughter; she is still too little for long walks, but I can put her in the bike trailer so it is a win/win. Marley is getting more exercise with the bike and we are slowly increasing the lengths of the ride/walk for him. He seems more content since we started using the bike

in comparison to just walking with him. He is also more focused when I am trying to teach him new things. He is such an awesome dog!!!! We love him so much!

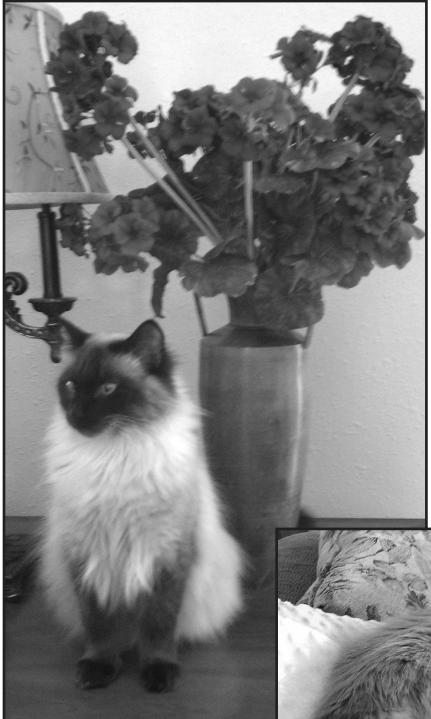
And of course, pictures! We were outside taking care of poo duty and may have gotten distracted by a ball and a very large stick.

Tiffany





Happy Tails



Hello!

Hope things are going well with you ... I thought I should give you a Sou Jinn update!

She really has come a long way and seems to be settling in as member of the family. We let her come and go from her room during the day now. At first, she came downstairs for a couple of minutes and then would go back to the safety of her room. Now, she comes down for hours at a time and spends time with us! She loves to sit on my lap and hang with Audri, our daughter. Just the other day she upgraded her napping spot to the back of the couch in the living room in lieu of her cat tower in our bedroom! She has also joined Tag and Tonka at meal time looking for a special treat of canned food. At first, she seemed to not know what to do with it, and would linger about that teaspoon of food for 15 minutes. Now she polishes it off! She still is working on blending in with the boys, but her growls, hisses and swats toward them have minimized greatly.

Chris has described her as a "mama's girl", but I deny this to spare his feelings! She keeps an eye on me and is always at my heels - I must be careful not to step on her because she is sure to be near! She loves to "race" me up the stairs - she gives me a four second start and has to beat me! She loves, loves, LOVES to play! I have not seen a more playful cat! She is obsessed with her feather-on-a-string toy and cannot wait for us to go to bed to play with her. I am up now because she woke me to swing that thing for her - morning feather play is also required! She chases toys around the wood floors and runs fast and skids into the wall to stop! She is a riot to watch!

She really is a sweet, loving and loyal friend. I have attached a couple of photos I took this week. Enjoy!

Warmly,

Michelle



This is a picture of our dog, "Honey", who we adopted 2 1/2 years ago from the shelter - she is loved by everyone she meets. She came with the name Honey, and we kept it because it fits!

Janel

Hi,

I just wanted to give you an update on Trevino, the gorgeous cat that my family and I adopted on March 19, 2011. He's doing so well at our house! He's getting along wonderfully with our other two cats and he's quickly become a part of our family. His personality and behavior are a perfect match for us and we couldn't be happier.

Thank you so much for helping us with the adoption.

Best,

Shannon



UWSP Students Go to the Dogs!

For students in the Animal Behavior Club at the University of Stevens Point, volunteering at the Humane Society of Portage County (HSPC) is more than just an opportunity to spend time with the dogs that are there awaiting adoption. It's an opportunity to combine their love and concern for animals with their interest in their major - psychology. But what could psychology possibly have to do with a rambunctious stray lab or a shy but loveable toy mix?



Actually, much of what psychologists know about basic patterns of cognition and learning comes from the study of animals. These studies are often encompassed by the branch of psychology known as "animal behavior," or "learning". Hence, an industrious and dog-loving group of UWSP Psychology Department students gathered together and named them-

selves the Animal Behavior Club. President Lauren Casterline started the group last year, but this year was their first as an official UWSP student organization. Since last year, the group has teamed up with the Humane Society in a partnership that benefits all of those involved - especially, of course, the dogs.



What exactly do Animal Behavior Club volunteers do at HSPC, and how did they end up there? The process started on

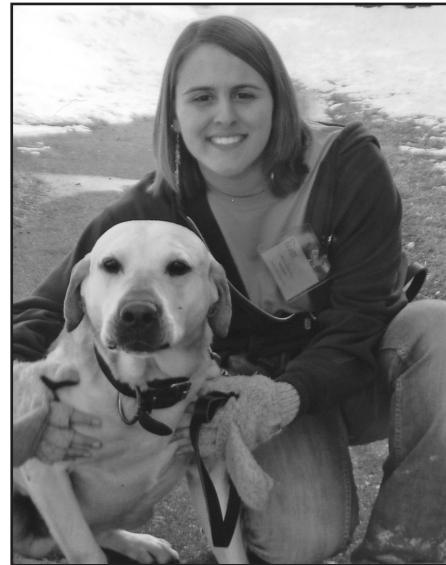
campus. Club members signed up to volunteer, and club executives organized the volunteers into small groups and assigned experienced group leaders. Everyone attended a training session taught by Dr. Mark Plonsky, UWSP professor of Canine Psychology (among other

things). During this session, students were taught dog-training fundamentals and safety. The focus was on basic skills like sit, down and leash etiquette; these are the skills that will become important as the dogs are considered by potential adopters, and keeping things simple is helpful for the students as most of them have little or no experience training dogs.

HSPC Adoption Coordinator Sherry Tucker gives each group guidelines on which animal needs special attention. Sherry oversees each group at the shelter for about an hour each week, and during this time each student works with at least one dog on basic skills and manners. A session usually starts with a walk or play time to help burn off extra energy, and students generally spend no more than 15 to 20 minutes training with any one dog at a time - more than 15 to 20 minutes becomes cumbersome and overwhelming for the dog.

Each student tries to stick with the same dog each week as consistency is the key when it comes to training. At the end of an Animal Behavior Club shelter day, many good things have happened. The students feel good about volunteering, and community outreach is beneficial to the university as well as to the students' résumés and grad school applications. Busy shelter staff have had help giving the animals attention. And, most important of all, the dogs have received the interaction, exercise, and mental stimulation that is so important for shelter animals. Not only does this make their stay at HSPC more enjoyable, it can improve the likelihood of adoption by improving their behavior and disposition. Every dog deserves a second chance at finding a happy home - some of them just need a little help getting there. Luckily for them, that's what the students of the UWSP Animal Behavior Club are all about.

Aurelia Poat
UWSP Animal Behavior Club



Become a Spay/Neuter Sponsor And Make a Difference!

Fact: in the U.S. as a whole, there are an estimated 6-8 million homeless animals entering animal shelters every year.

Fact: spay/neuter is the only permanent, 100-percent effective method of birth control for dogs and cats.

Your donation to the spay/neuter sponsor program will help defray the cost of this necessary surgery for our animals at the Humane Society!

If you would like to be a part of this amazing opportunity, please send your donation and the form below to:

Humane Society of Portage County
Spay/Neuter Sponsor Program
3200 Iber Lane
Plover, WI 54467

*YOU can make
a difference in
an animal's
life!*

Spay/Neuter Sponsor Donation Form

Please cut and return with your donation to the Humane Society

name _____

address _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

email address _____ phone _____

donation \$ _____

circle one:

dog

cat

either is fine!

If you'd like to add a personal message (such as birthday, in memory, or in honor of) please write the message below.

For office use only:

- cage card confirmation
- picture
- letter sent/thank you



My Second Year

The things I have learned ... I can't even put some of them on paper. I know that this newsletter is printed and sent to wonderful people that obviously care about their animals and the shelter animals. I am sure that those of you who receive this newsletter care for all creatures great and small. I am not sure how to reach the others - those that have no clue what it means to really love an animal. Where is the breakdown?



In my very first article, I talked about the warriors and the fight to save the animals. I know that the human/animal bond strengthens each of us! As I look back on the years, I just can't understand why all people are not on the same page. I can't get my head around the thought process of the family that wants to give up on an old cat that they have had since it was a tiny little fur ball with a milk moustache. That's right - they get old and need more attention and may need more vet care. People need to realize that the animal trusts them and that the animal can't take care of itself. That care does not mean dump them out on the road somewhere. I work with staff that have the same thought process as I do. You adopt an animal and you love it for all of its life, despite all of its silly quirks.



I have learned that there are wonderful people in this community that give so much to their animals and still have that extra to give to the shelter. There are sweet



older couples who come in and donate squeeze cheese for the dogs on a regular basis. There are young couples that come in and walk dogs or just donate their Friday night fun money to us instead of going out.

There are at least six thousand shelters in the United States, and that means that we are winning the war and achieving our goals. We need to work together as a community and help all of our animals. We need to fight the battle and give our animals all that they deserve!



Sherry Tucker
Adoption Coordinator

DONATE YOUR TIME

We are always in need of loyal, kind-hearted volunteers to help with animal care and socialization, general cleaning, kennel cleaning, fundraising and special events. Groups can also help in many different ways. Call us at 715-344-6012, or stop by and fill out a volunteer application.



HSPC Celebrates Issuance of Dog Seller License



Many times, organizations feel bogged down by increased state regulation: more red tape means less time and resources dedicated to their mission. In this case, just the oppo-

site is true. The Humane Society of Portage County is celebrating the fact that we recently passed our state inspection with flying colors and received our very first Dog Seller and Dog Facility Operators license!

Why are we celebrating? A new law titled Act 90, often-times referred to as the puppy mill legislation, requires that beginning June 1, 2011, most dog breeders, dog dealers and shelters that sell over 25 dogs per year be inspected and licensed by the state. The law spells out, in great detail, standards of care which must be met: requirements for food and water, health and veterinary

care, exercise, behavior and socialization. These requirements are enforced by inspectors employed by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), who will inspect all facilities and breeders at least once every two years and issue licenses – or deny them – as appropriate.

Why is this so important? The law was designed to protect the welfare of dogs and to protect the consumers who adopt or buy them. Act 90 was a decade in the making; the patient, dedicated group of people who worked tirelessly for years to get this legislation passed did so to ensure that those who keep and sell dogs are held to the highest standards of care. Those who cannot or will not comply will be denied a license to sell dogs.

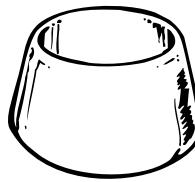
The enactment of this law is a huge step forward in the fight to end the suffering and abuse that occurs when these standards of care are not met. Will all puppy mills and bad breeders be immediately shut down? It will likely take some time and hard work on the part of DATCP inspectors, but after years of struggle we are finally moving in the right direction.

YOU CAN HELP! — OUR WISH LIST —

Day-to-day operations at the Humane Society of Portage County require unbelievable quantities of supplies for feeding and cleaning. You can help by donating the following items – remember us the next time you shop!

- Adult dog and puppy food – Purina One, IAMS or better, please!
- Adult cat and kitten food – Purina One, IAMS or better, please!
- Canned cat and dog food (please, no Sprout or Old Roy)
- Cat and dog toys - anything that can be sterilized with bleach
- Dog harnesses, collars and leashes - all sizes
- Bleach and powder laundry detergent
- Clorox Clean-Up, Dawn Dish Soap and Mr. Clean Floor Cleaner
- Paper towels, toilet paper, liquid hand soap
- Clumping Cat Litter
- A cash donation is always appreciated!

We thank you for your support!





Become a Humane Society member today and you will receive:

- "Humane Society of Portage County Member" window cling
- \$10.00 microchipping for your pet
- Discounts on rabies vaccinations

Don't delay – join us today!

HUMANE SOCIETY OF PORTAGE COUNTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

_____ JUNIOR (17 and under) - \$10

_____ INDIVIDUAL - \$25

_____ FAMILY - \$100

_____ LIFETIME - \$500

_____ CORPORATE SILVER (ANNUAL) - \$250

_____ CORPORATE GOLD (ANNUAL) - \$500

_____ CORPORATE PLATINUM (ANNUAL) - \$1,000

Payment Enclosed (Please make check payable to Humane Society of Portage County)

Please Bill My: MasterCard Visa

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

All Donations are Tax Deductible.

THANK YOU!

HSPC is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that is solely supported by donations and does not receive funding from the state or federal government, United Way or national associations. Each year, operational costs are met through fundraising events, contractual agreements, private donations and memberships. The welfare of our animals, programs and the future of our shelter depend upon your generosity! All donations are tax deductible.



HAPPY ENDINGS!





Humane Society of Portage County
3200 Iber Lane
Plover, WI 54467

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481
PERMIT NO. 29

HUMANE SOCIETY OF PORTAGE COUNTY

Shelter Facilities

3200 Iber Lane
Plover, WI 54467

Phone: 715-344-6012 or Fax: 715-344-5954

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesdays & Holidays: CLOSED

Mission Statement

Our mission is to prevent cruelty, abuse, neglect and overpopulation of companion animals while seeking adoption of these animals into compatible homes, and teaching humane awareness and respect for all life thus helping to build a better community.

Visit us at www.hspcwi.org or visit www.petfinder.com